

UPS

MTA-2020

6 July 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- June 1982

I. GENERAL

June was a record-breaking month for Tel Aviv Bureau, with filed wordage reaching just over 650,000. This was due, of course, to the Israeli military operation into Lebanon. As of this writing, the Israeli Defense Forces have imposed a total blockade on Beirut, trapping several thousand Palestinian fighters inside West Beirut. The uncertain outcome of this siege on Beirut will no doubt have further repercussions on bureau resources.

To meet the crisis, the bureau extended its normal 16-hour coverage to 24 hours daily for most of the month. This was done to handle the tremendous workload and to provide an open speaker watch on the Voice of Israel, which extended its broadcast day by 6 hours, and Israeli television, which expanded its broadcasts by about 2 hours daily. Fortunately, the bureau was able to secure badly needed assistance by pressing into service [redacted] an Austrian Bureau monitor who happened to be on home leave in Israel, and [redacted] a former Austrian Bureau teletypist and wife of senior editor [redacted]

STAT
STAT
STAT

The performance of the bureau's Hebrew monitors and teletypists during this hectic period was extraordinary and very reassuring to bureau management. They worked long hours on unattractive shifts without complaint. During their nonworking hours, many of them kept in touch by telephone to offer their services at a moment's notice. It was a very impressive and selfless display of professionalism at its best.

III. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

June began normally enough with a special cabinet session on Defense Minister Sharon's recent visit to the United States; Belgian

Foreign Minister Leo Tinderman's departure following a visit to Israel; and a joint press conference with Labor Party leader Shimon Peres and his Egyptian guests, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, who strongly criticized Israel's position on Jerusalem as a venue for the autonomy talks, and former Egyptian Foreign Minister Mustafa Khalil. The second day of June saw the arrival of FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and a lightening visit by Mubarak adviser Usamah al-Baz and Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who brought an "urgent" message on the autonomy issue to Prime Minister Begin from President Mubarak. That was as slow as things got.

One development of particular interest to the bureau was the report on 4 June that U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis had officially notified Prime Minister Begin that he would be staying on as ambassador following numerous reports and speculations in the Israeli media that he would soon be replaced.

Late in the evening of 3 June Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom Shlomo Argov was shot by terrorists in London. Despite PLO denials of any involvement, IDF planes heavily bombed Beirut on 4 June and this resulted in PLO shelling of Israeli settlements in the north and subsequent artillery duels. There was additional shelling across the border by both parties on 5 June along with extensive IDF bombing of targets in the Beirut area and in southern Lebanon. Late that same evening Tel Aviv Bureau filed a ZZ message from Jerusalem radio citing a UNIFIL spokesman to the effect that Israeli tanks and artillery had been moved north into Lebanon into the Christian enclave of Major Haddad. Early on 6 June Israeli ground forces supported by air and naval units began to move northward through Lebanon in a three-pronged attack. Over the next few days the IDF spokesman reported the capture of Beaufort Castle, Tyre, An-Nabatiyah, Ad-Damur and other key Palestinian strongholds. Special U.S. envoy Philip Habib also arrived in Israel during this period with a message from President Reagan and held extensive talks with Israeli leaders.

Habib then left Israel on the 9th for Damascus. On that same day there were major clashes between Israeli forces and Syrian forces in Lebanon. A massive IDF raid destroyed the Syrian SAM missiles in the Al-Biqa' valley. The IDF also reportedly shot down 29 Syrian aircraft and another 25 the next day. Israeli losses were put at 1 plane and 2 helicopters in the early stages of the fighting.

Events slackened somewhat on 11 June when a cease-fire was declared, but it was shortlived. Habib continued his diplomatic efforts, visiting Israel again on 12 June and yet another cease-fire was declared. Tel Aviv Bureau on 12 June also reported by ZZ message

an IDF report that the Lebanese presidential palace had been hit by a bomb and then subsequently reported that President Sarkis was not there at the time. Amidst sporadic, sometimes heavy fighting, Habib continued his shuttle diplomacy while Prime Minister Begin departed on 15 June for the United States and meetings with President Reagan, Secretary of State Haig and other senior U.S. officials.

After another breakdown of the cease-fire, IDF forces seized a key section of the Beirut-Damascus highway near Bhamdun and completed the encirclement of Beirut, which had been partly cut off as early as the 14th. Within the next couple of days IDF forces consolidated their hold on the road, with one Israeli checkpoint being within 40 kilometers of Damascus.

As the month ended, yet another cease-fire was declared, Syrian SAMs that had been moved into the Al-Biq'a' valley to replace the previous ones were also knocked out, a mass protest against the Lebanon action was held in Tel Aviv and the Knesset held its first full debate on the Lebanon operation, with major speeches by Prime Minister Begin, Defense Minister Sharon, opposition leader Peres and other key figures.

B. Lateral Services

The bureau prepared special packages of material several times during the month for special U.S. envoy Philip Habib and his party during his various visits to Jerusalem. The bureau also prepared packages for Deputy Assistant Secretary Morris Draper when he traveled separately. During one of Habib's visits, Jock Covey of the American Consulate in Jerusalem called the bureau to say that Habib had negotiated another cease-fire to go into effect that evening at 9 pm and that Beirut radio was to announce it at 8 pm. He said that it was of "utmost importance" that this announcement be monitored and asked the bureau to call him back to confirm it. Since this call came just before 8 o'clock, deputy chief [] sent a ZZ message alerting Nicosia Bureau to the expected announcement. It turned out that Beirut radio didn't carry the announcement at the specified time, but Jerusalem did and the bureau filed it at immediate precedence. The consulate was then notified and they expressed their appreciation for our efforts.

The bureau maintained virtually constant contact with other embassy components during the month, many of which also mounted

STAT

24-hour operations. The bureau notified Ambassador Lewis at home late on the evening of 5 June of the initial Israeli movement of ground forces into Lebanon and frequently informed key embassy officials of developments regardless of the hour. Political Counselor Paul Hare more than once praised the bureau for its "fine performance" while stressing we were sometimes virtually their sole source of information. An interesting sidelight in this context occurred when the FBIS duty editor mentioned in passing Secretary of State Haig's resignation while alerting the Ambassador's office to a breaking development. It so happened that this was the first the embassy had heard of it and the duty editor subsequently alerted all key embassy components.

The American Embassy in Damascus, which had previously declared a minimize on telecommunication traffic to them due to being inundated by traffic generated by Lebanese events, on 23 June sent an immediate message to Tel Aviv Bureau and other FBIS bureaus with Mideast coverage asking that we resume traffic on Lebanese developments, noting that lack of FBIS material had "hampered" their reporting.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Visits

Austrian Bureau monitor who was visiting Israel on end-of-contract leave, filled in as a TDY Hebrew monitor from 13-20 June.

Personnel Officer visited the bureau for orientation 28-29 June.

STAT

STAT

STAT

Chief, ~~FBIS~~ FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

Attachment: Production Report

TEL AVIV BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JUNE 1982ATTACHMENT A1. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 575,100

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 77,000

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 1,744

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE</u> (minutes of issues per week)	6,543 min.	10,590 min.	51 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran	15,200		
(Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian to Iran	0		
(Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in English to Cyprus	1,200		
(Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus	3,200		
(Clandestine) Our Radio in Turkish to Turkey	4,700		
(Clandestine) Voice of Turkish Communist Party in Turkish to Europe and Turkey	9,700		

ISRAEL

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English	13,300		
Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew	224,000		
Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew	57,900		
Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Arabic	1,300		
Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew	71,000		
Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew		16,000	
Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English			1,500

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS</u> <u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
ISRAEL (cont'd)			
Jerusalem POST IN			
English			34,600
Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in			
Hebrew			2,400
Tel Aviv DAVAR in			
Hebrew			15,700
Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in			
Hebrew			26,700
Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in			
Hebrew			0
Tel Aviv HATZOFE in			
Hebrew			1,000
Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in			
Hebrew			30,500
Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in			
Hebrew			6,900
Tel Aviv BEMAHANE in			
Hebrew			2,700
Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in			
Hebrew			2,800
LEBANON			
Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in			
English	0		
TURKEY			
Ankara Domestic Service in			
Turkish	18,200		
Ankara ANATOLIA in			
Turkish		800	
Ankara ANATOLIA in			
English		11,000	
Ankara ANATOLIA in			
French		0	
		350	
UNITED KINGDOM			
London BBC World Service in			
English	100		
USSR			
Moscow in			
Dari to Afghanistan	0		
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in			
Hebrew to Israel	2,300		

STAT

TEL AVIV BUREAU MONTHLY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT FOR JUNE 1982 ATTACHMENT B

1. TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 575,100 (315,100)
TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 77,000 (68,100).
DAILY WORDAGE FILED AVERAGED 21,725 (12,361)
HIGHEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 32,280 ON 29 June
LOWEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 11,430 ON 27 June
2. OUTAGES ON OUTGOING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 2.25 HOURS, 0.3 PERCENT.
OUTAGES ON INCOMING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 2.25 HOURS, 0.3 PERCENT.
EXTENDED OUTAGES: NONE
3. MESSAGES RECEIVED VIA THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT FOR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
TEL AVIV TOTALED 2,425, OF WHICH 2,333 CARRIED THE BUREAU AS AN
ADDRESSEE.
4. WORDS FILED VIA TELEX DURING OUTAGES OF THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT: 60 (0)

NB. Figures from preceding month in parentheses.